(c) the specific steps Government proposed to take in order to improve the low standard of insanitation and unhygenic surroundings including the means for the disposal of solid wastes in the metropolitan cities; and

(d) by when the action in this regard would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 888/96 filed by Mrs. Almitra H. Patel against the Union of India and others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed concern about the state of uncleanliness in the metro cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Delhi and Bangalore. The Hon'ble Court has further directed all concerned State Governments has Municipal Corporations vide its order dated 24.11.99 to submit specific details regarding the steps to be taken for cleaning of these cities.

(c) and (d) Since solid waste management is a State subject, necessary steps have to be taken by the State Governments and the urban local bodies to improve the situation. With reference to the above court matter, the Ministry of Urban Development, after consulting the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission, has constituted a Technology Advisory Group on 18.8.99 for a period of 5 years under the chairmanship of Adviser, Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation and consisting of representatives from some of the State Governments, Municipal Corporations and concerned Ministries/Departments to look into certain specific aspects of solid waste management, viz., appropriate technology. financial resources, human resource development, private sector participation and public awareness.

Construction of Barrage in Kanpur U.P.

†1966. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint project of Rs. 294 crore was sanctioned for construction of barrage and drinking water component plant in Kanpur on the basis of equal participation of Government of Uttar Pradesh had the Cental Government;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Central Government were to release their share of Rs. 17.12 crores during the financial year 1997-98;

(c) what is the present position and whether Central Government are releasing their share of funding on time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. The Government of India approved the Ganga Barrage project (Intergrated Barrage and Water Supply Components) on 10th April, 1999 at an estimated cost of Rs. 263.40 crores. 50% of this amount will be given by the Government of India as a loan to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Govt. of India had never made any commitment to release Rs. 17.12 crores during 1997-98. However, in anticipation of the sanction of the project by the competent authority, Ministry of Urban Development had released Rs. 2.00 crores during 1996-97. Earlier it had released Rs. 4.00 crores during 1994-95.

(c) and (d) In addition to Rs. 6.00 crores already relesed before March, 1999, Rs. 4.5 crores have been released as a loan to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh on 7th December, 1999.

Encroachments in Basant Gaon, New Delhi

1967. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons who have encroached Government land/ public passages and constructed houses unauthorisedly thereon in Basant Gaon, New Delhi, alongwith details of plinth area;

(b) the steps taken by Government to get the encroachments cleared/demolished during last three years;

(c) whether the encroachments at many plots like Khasra No. 17A, Basant Goan has not been demolished;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when Government proposed to remove all unauthorised construction/encroachments in the above area?